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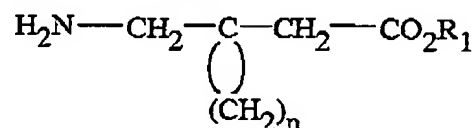
**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of the claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application.

Listing of the claims:

Claim 1. (canceled)

Claim 2. (currently amended) A method of treating noninflammatory cartilage damage in a mammal suffering therefrom, comprising the method consisting essentially of administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a GABA analog having the characteristic of being an inhibitor of cartilage damage, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the GABA analog is a compound of Formula I



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein  $\text{R}_1$  is hydrogen or straight or branched lower alkyl, and  $n$  is an integer of from 4 to 6.

Claim 3. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 2, wherein the GABA analog is gabapentin.

Claims 4 to 57. (cancelled)

Claim 58. (previously presented) A method of treating noninflammatory cartilage damage in a mammal suffering therefrom, comprising administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition for treating noninflammatory cartilage damage, comprising a noninflammatory cartilage damage treating effective amount of a GABA analog having the characteristic of being an inhibitor of cartilage damage, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient, wherein the GABA analog is a compound named 3-(1-aminomethyl-

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cyclohexylmethyl)-4H-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-one, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 59. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 58, wherein the GABA analog is a compound named 3-(1-aminomethyl-cyclohexylmethyl)-4H-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-one hydrochloride.